


Liverpool June 30th. 1850. Sunday
 Adelphe Hotel

Dear Sir, Only think what a disappointment! To meet the Steamer going down just as we were within 12 a mile of our dock in Liverpool harbour, & so too late to send our letters however I concluded to let the first do as it was finished, & begin the next sheet; the diary to you - and so, methodically, I must continue the account of that delightful Friday afternoon, & of our first interview with "farmers." I would only premise with a remark on the comfort of writing on a steady table, with a comfortable chair capable of being moved to a convenient distance closer or farther; & without being obliged to put your arm over a rim two inches wide round the table! - Those Irishmen were strange specimens! - When the Captain wanted to get rid of the second boat load one of the men started for the fore-castle & steerage. The Captain shouted after him, but there was no stopping him, he dived down & presently appeared with a bowl of sugar one of the steerage passengers had given him, ^{the Captain ordered him into his boat} but how could he carry the sugar, for he must slide down a rope of course must have both hands? He took off his ragged, dirty tarpaulin, emptied the sugar in, doubled up the rim & took it between his teeth, & fell down! He was a miserable looking creature, more animal than human in appearance. The boys in that boat were queer looking things, they were made of bag-skins filled with air, they looked like some of those misshapen animals babies cut their teeth on, only of huge size - Another boat came afterwards with some potatoes & cyp, they were also liberally recompensed with bread, & tea, coffee, sugar, &c. & a good piece of beef till they hung about peeping, such insolence! - before as they all were, there was no satisfying them! They wanted something to disturb the ship's health in, & as it was refused, as a specimen of gratitude, no sooner were they loosed from us, than they began to abuse us, & say if they could not make better trades than that they should starve! - But the late fellow who stood up & shouted after us, grinned & showed his teeth as if he could not help laughing at his own words. - That afternoon was lovely! almost a perfect calm, the sea so still & smooth, the air soft & warm, & the picturesque shore! The next morning I got up early & went on deck - but unfortunately after the calm the wind had come directly against us, & we had by tracking only just come up a little to the east of Cape Clear; it lay behind us, the sea was fresh & blue & quite a school of humpbacked whales were smoking & blowing & swimming on one side - but the wind freshened, & being so directly against us made a raw & uncomfortable motion. Then we had rougher weather so, instead of making one sea-sick, it seemed to stop all digestion & give me horrid dyspepsia - That day & the next I kept pretty much in my berth, being on very light diet & only peeping occasionally up on deck. I had not even energy to go & see one of the few bright sunsets we have had - We have had a great deal of dull weather, clouds & mist - Very few sunsets & have lost all the moon-light - Monday 1st. ^{stayed} ~~stayed~~ in the middle of the night & saw ^{the moon} ~~the moon~~ streaming beautifully through my

little sort of (glu!) — ^{mean} but Dr. Jay will keep reading aloud — and that is the only moon-light I believe there has been — But, partly I suppose it is the very long bonny twilight — Thursday was much calmer & we triumphantly finished the first volume of Macaulay & began the second — By tacking we had done about 30 miles a day on our course, & Thursday evening were at the entrance of St. George's Channel — that tacking is a most disagreeable operation in the cabin, though rather amusing on deck — First a horrible flapping down of ropes over head, then a rattling of sails, then a universal flapping & shaking & swinging, the sailors run over head, the Captain & Mate's shout, then come the solemn sailor-cries as they haul at the ropes again — Everything which had got a blunt one was in your cabin takes the other direction, the books slide down, the book-brushes knock the other ^{end} of the desk, the shoes run to the other side, everything moves that can, & you if in bed settle, will or nide, to the other side — Friday the wind was rather better, & it was very pleasant sailing — He came often in sight of the Welch coast, & had it been clear, might have had some nice views of bold shores & hills, which peered occasionally through the mist — Before we went to bed we were in sight of Holy-head light — What do you think of our long days? It was read aloud to me in the cabin on Sunday evening until after 8^o, & it was not clear either — It is not really dark until 10 — The other morning Mrs. Clarke thought "dells meant" ¹² instead of "12" ^{o'clock} it was so light — Not much night you may believe, but little more than 2 hours of darkness — Saturday morning people were stirring bright & early — Packing to go ashore, & dressing up a little — It was some curiosity to find out ones friends in bonnets instead of hoods & cape bonnets — I only put away the cake bonnet & put on my straw — It is about 15 miles from the nominal mouth of the Mersey to Liverpool, though the coast stretches far away on each side the water however is very shallow & muddy looking, & the channel narrow, marked carefully out with large buoys, floating bells, & a floating light — The town came in sight of New Brighton, a pretty little watering place with neat cottages surrounded by hedges & trees above a long sand beach, on which we could see the docks, & the bathing machines — Little steamers were moving about, & soon we were close to Liverpool & passing ^{about} the docks — At first sight they do not strike you at all, for the Quays which enclose them have buildings generally upon them & so you cannot see the ships — Only the high stone walls with ^{wharves} should say, on the top of them, & these low buildings for merchandise — But soon you notice the masts rising above them & the streamers fluttering over head — As we sailed up they had been practically taking down the sails — The crew the main sail rolled up & carried like a great, dejected snake on the shoulders of the sailors down below, & by the time we reached our dock our masts were almost bare — Unfortunately it was high tide, so we landed directly from the ship to the wharf, & quitted the ^{Thames} Rock which had cradled us so long & to my head, till keeps up a gentle vibration — Though very glad to get on shore I think we have had in the whole a very agreeable & pleasant voyage. (If a voyage may be called agreeable.)

Mr. B. went to look for his luggage
Dr. Jay escorted Mrs. Crowninshield & nurse & children in one cab, Miss Clark Mr. Clark & myself went in the other to the Adelphi — The Clarks took a pastor with us, & having deposited the ladies in their rooms, (the gentlemen went back to get their luggage through the Custom house — And now behold, you luxuriating in all the comforts of an English Hotel, & very comfortable they are! — Would you like to take a peep into our rooms? Our parlour is on the front, & your first feeling on entering is that it seems so comfortable & home-like, instead of ^{lavish} & strange — As you enter, on the opposite side to the door are the windows with heavy warm looking dark green curtains, with a monstrous heavy mottled fringe, ^{performance, a pot deep should think} out it gives an air of comfort, & as we were glad to have a fire today, one does not mind the wintery look — Then deep nice seats in the windows also covered with green — Inside the door stands a gilding screen protecting one from cold air & the eye of passer-by — Between the windows a pier-table & a round mirror over, & candlesticks on the table — One side of the room stands a high large sort of pier table with marble top answering for side-board, on the opposite side is the fire-place on the hearth — They look very differently from ours where we burn hard or laurel — In the corner is a nice sofa sort of bench also covered with green — In another corner a nice writing table with ink stand & pot-stand upon it. A small sofa table against the wall, comfortable easy chair, &c. complete the room — The furniture is not new or showy, but substantial looking & comfortable — But the bed room looked most comfortable after our little bit of a state room — How I recollect in this two large toilet tables standing in the two windows, with their great white covers, the gigantic washstand, the centre table where one could lay something down, a bureau, easy chair, &c. is not to be described — But the pride of the room was the bed, with its high posts supporting a mahogany cornice, & long white dimity curtains running on rods to be drawn close at night, its white coverlet, all looking so exquisitely fresh & nice — There were long white dimity curtains to the window, abundance of towels, a pot of treacle in one corner to keep things on, &c. &c. But ^{everything} ~~is~~ is so beautifully neat & clean! Tell Lizzie the bed-chamber floor would have charmed her — The floor was of some wood, scrubbed till almost polished, & the carpet was not nailed down & did not cover it all, but was in strips so that it could be taken up & shaken, & the floor washed — One broad piece running across the room at the foot of the bed reaching from the bed to the windows, & three pieces down each side of the bed reaching to the wall — Lizzie has such a fancy for having no carpets on chambers I am sure she would like this fashion — Dr. Jay was commissioned to order dinner, & we came to the conclusion he meant to have a festival on coming on shore — It was very nice & served quite in style — And he found up with some splendid strawberries — They were quite as large as Beverly & finely flavored — But queer shaped, for almost all were formed by two or three growing together making them look like crooked & white crooked Dickens describes, & of the Jewish persuasion comparing their profiles with some in Punch — But they were very civil —

I amused myself much with looking at the equipages from the windows - I saw very few that seemed portable, & I do not think one with two horses - A sort of carriage quite like Grandfather's only drawn by one horse & lighter were used for hacks or for private gentlemen - Then a comical sort of affair I saw used from country farmers to persons driving their masters - It certainly was as ugly as anything I ever saw, being after the idea of a chaise, only entirely without place -  A regular square box with a dasher, resting on springs & two wheels, & when, not unusually, another dasher is affixed behind or a second couple sit thus indecantly with their feet out, I call it a most ignominious looking vehicle - The donkey carts looked queer too - Such little creatures not much larger than large dogs drawing large carts with men & women in them - I felt as if they ought to be put out & carry the donkeys - But on the whole Liverpool did not look as foreign as I expected - It did not look more strange to me than New York or Philadelphia - There were more women in the streets, odd looking beings, without bonnets some, & such monstrous feet all round! And there were a great many more people standing about doing nothing - The houses generally, except in the warehouses in those parts, are lower than ours; the dwellings houses in blocks much more architectural, & fewer windows, which I think improves them - The streets are beautifully clean, & so hard that they can have scarcely dust or mud I should think, & they drive through them fast, & the carriages travel very easily - The public buildings are handsome & large, & everything looks substantial - The buildings are so well situated too, either on a square where several streets meet, or open spaces round them - But alas! in the lower parts, particularly, now they are smoked & dirtied! - They look as if they had been covered with soot & somebody had tried to wipe it off with a nap, & left it all streaked, making bad worse - The buildings are many of them of a dark rough brick which looks at a little distance like stone, & many of the private buildings are of a very pleasing sort of yellow stone something like the new Athenaeum, & some much yellower - One comfort is you can look at all sides of a building - I took a walk after ~~tea~~ ^{dinner} Saturday Evening -

London. Thursday, July 4th -

Here we are, dear me, most comfortably established at Mrs Ward's - I am shockingly behind-hand with my journal, & must make haste to finish up to day for the post tomorrow so as not to lose this week's steamer - So to take up for Sunday, & my things down in due order - Sunday morning we went to Mr. Martineau's chapel - Quite a showy building in Gothic style, a condensed little cathedral with nave, aisles, transepts & choir, & even clerestory - A tall & handsome spire with niches high up with statues in them - The interior struck me strangely, for the ceiling was supported on oak beams, & colored blue - & there was a great deal of night coloring in escutcheons & emblems about the church; the front of the organ was blue & illuminated border - The chancel lanterns round the gas down each side of the church were suspended by a blue chain for the centre, & gilt ones around. The lanterns were of blue with texts from Scripture on them in gold letters (old English) - But yet the whole effect was not so very gay, for the wood work was all oak, & the pillars ^{supporting} the nave from the piers were black marble - He had a very fine sermon from Mr. Martineau, but his style of delivery was very different from what I had imagined - His appearance is quite impressive

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He looks something like Miss Martinian, with very heavy, dark hair hanging over his forehead, & much better looking for a man than she was for a woman - His manner was impressive, but not quite so calm as I had imagined; at first I could scarcely follow him his pronunciation sounded almost foreign - still he was not oratorical - But I liked the sermon exceedingly - Coming home we walked round St. James cemetery - A burying-ground made in an old quarry so that you look down from the street on this pretty spot interspersed with trees & shrubs green lawns & walks & monuments, & some of the tombs ~~crossed~~ ^{were} cut into the stone sides - We dined at 5 & after dinner rode to a church quite out of town in Princess Park - An Episcopal church & one of the most popular preachers - The church was very handsome of red free stone & the roof inside beautiful - You could see quite up to the ridge-pole & it was supported on beams of very dark oak crossing & recrossing & making arches to where they joined, dropping ornaments of carved oak - I did not think much of the sermon - It had an extemporaneous Charity sermon - Monday morning at 10 o'clock having lunched on some soup we took the Cars for Coventry passing through Birmingham - I was very much disappointed in the elegance of the first class Cars - I do not think the fittings up nearly as handsome as ours, though they have Brussels Carpets on the floor - They are all divided like carriages three making one car & each holding six sitting opposite - The cushioned divisions of the seat are exceedingly comfortable to lean ones head against - That is very much wanted in our cars - The rail-road is allowed to cross on a level with a road so that one strikes one from our country that all are brick or stone, generally brick ^{covered} with stone - I believe I have seen but one wooden bridge - The banks too are almost all high or low beautifully passed which gives a very neat look, & they were making hay along the line so that we had the most delicious fragrance - At the stations there were no standers about, I believe no persons but on business are allowed within the enclosure, & the guards' ostation masters all dressed alike in a sort of livery - dark blue with pewter buttons, single-breasted coats, & the number of the man & initials of the company embroidered in white on his collar - Each guard I believe lives at his station, & they cultivate the little patches round the houses most prettily; It gave a most charming look along the road for the stations came every few miles & the roses were in blossom - They do not seem to be troubled with insects as we are; the foliage all looked green & fresh - But how beautiful the country was! - Every field cultivated so perfectly & so green - I liked hedges very much better than I thought I should, they were not so very trim & formal looking, but looked like green stone walls, & many trees are left in them, & often scattered over the fields, & as the fields are much smaller than ours it gives the appearance of a great deal of foliage - The trees were not very large that I saw -

Then the houses - I do not wonder that English travellers think everything looks so new with us - All were of this rough daisy brick making them look so quiet & sober many thatched & thatched slated or tiled the roofs very steep - Then almost all had casement windows & trees or shrubs close round them as picturesque as any of the pictures one sees. We reached Birmingham, having passed through many large towns, about 5 - Some of the stations were very handsome, & everything is so neat & tidy - The station at Birmingham, I mean the building into which the cars run, is ~~covered~~ ^{covered} with a roof supported by light iron arches & pass running in all directions & at the top runs a greenhouse making it of course very light - The roof put in like a at Birmingham, & there was a good deal of confusion, several trains all from one platform, & they do not, I think, manage those things so well as with us; there did not seem to be anyone to point out & begin to move & I found were going back on the same route on which we had come - I there alone with a young man; I wanted to get out but he would not let me assuring me I should hurt myself - So I had quietly to make up my mind to go back to the next station & trust to the next train to get back to Birmingham - I thought, Dizzie, at once of the unprotected female, & so determined to behave quietly & take it easily, & could not help laughing a little though I felt somewhat distressed at Dr. Gray's dismay when he should turn round & see the cars moving off with me - I got out at the first stopping place & the guard promised I should go back in the next train in about an hour - Was very civil & kind, said it was a mistake often made as the cars all left in the same direction, took me up into his office & gave me a seat - I admired his little garden which looked quite charmingly, he told me the distinguished places in the neighborhood, asked me the names of some of the flowers, & gradually finding where I came from we had quite a long talk - He asked a great many questions about America & was very pleasant & intelligent - Presented me with a beautiful rose & five I left & put me into the train introducing me to an old gentleman as a lady from America & asking him to see me safe - So I got nicely back to Birmingham, where on getting out & informing the guard what a trip I had taken, he said my husband was waiting for me - Going round to the platform I soon found him - And so I had a nice little excursion by myself & the advantage of seeing some really luxurious cars for they were much better than our train & getting a beautiful rose too - With best love & many thanks for your letter I must now hastily close for the post -